



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1904.

CONTENTS:

Herbert Spencer's Autobiography: PROFESSOR
LESTER F. WARD..... 873

The Work of the Year 1903 in Ecology: DR.
HENRY CHANDLER COWLES..... 879

Scientific Books:—

*The Desert Botanical Laboratory of the
Carnegie Institution*: DR. FREDERIC E.
CLEMENTS. *Physiology in the Interna-
tional Catalogue of Scientific Literature*:
PROFESSOR FREDERIC S. LEE..... 885

Societies and Academies:—

*The Washington Meeting of the American
Physical Society*: PROFESSOR E. B. ROSA.
The Botanical Society of America: PRO-
FESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL. *The New York
Academy of Sciences, Section of Anthropol-
ogy and Psychology*: PROFESSOR JAMES E.
LOUGH. *Section of Geology and Mineral-
ogy*: DR. EDMUND OTIS HOVEY..... 888

Discussion and Correspondence:—

The Complex Nature of Thorium: PRO-
FESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE. *A Reddish-
brown Snowfall*: EDWARD LINDSEY..... 892

Special Articles:—

Mental Efficiency and Health: PROFESSOR
ROBERT MACDOUGALL..... 893

The Electron Theory: W. S. F..... 896

A Heavy Japanese Brain: DR. EDW. ANTHONY
SPITZKA 899

Professor Rutherford on Radium..... 899

Scientific Notes and News..... 900

University and Educational News..... 904

HERBERT SPENCER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.*

THE autobiography of a great man, the publication of which during his lifetime is expressly interdicted by him, unavoidably raises the question as to the possibility of disinterested action. Mr. Spencer has, indeed, in his 'Autobiography' discussed the motives that prompted his work, and has shown that egoism and altruism are inextricably mixed in the composition of these motives. But he speaks only of his philosophical works, all of which appeared during his lifetime, and in which he may, therefore, be supposed to have a personal interest. But here is a work of no mean proportions, in which he knew he could take no interest after it appeared. In many cases the motive may be explained by the belief on the part of the authors that they will continue to exist and remain cognizant of all that is to take place, and will, therefore, know just what the effect of their action is to be upon the world at large. But no such motive can be alleged in the present case, for he himself says: 'as I have no belief in anything to be gained in another world, it can not be otherworldliness that moved me'; and again: 'with death there lapses both the consciousness of existence and the consciousness of having existed.' This is not the place to discuss such a question, but in the minds of many it can not be suppressed.

The 'Autobiography' of Herbert Spencer must not be regarded as a mere pastime and incidental episode in his career, but as

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

* Two volumes. New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1904, 8°.